

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: The Tannery
AND/OR HISTORIC: 1761 Tannery

2. LOCATION

Located in Historic Bethlehem Incorporated's 9-acre historic park between Monocacy Creek and the tail race of the Grist Mill. Park area is enclosed by Hill-to-Hill Bridge on south, Main Street on east, Broad Street Bridge on north, and Monocacy Creek on west.

Bethlehem

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Northampton	CODE 095
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
99-year lease to Historic Bethlehem Incorporated by the City of Bethlehem

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Center, 10 East Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bethlehem	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 18018	CODE: 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Northampton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Seventh and Walnut Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Easton	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: HABS Survey - Pennsylvania #1143 (1968) - HABS Archives, Washington, D.C. "Master Plan for Historic Bethlehem" - 1963.

DATE OF SURVEY: See above Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Bethlehem Incorporated

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Bethlehem	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 18018	CODE: 42
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: PA.
COUNTY: Northampton
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE

This massive limestone building, according to colonial records, housed a tanning operation large enough to produce ^{625'} over 4,500 hides during its peak production years, 1776-1784. It has been determined archaeologically that, in conformity with the Germanic architecture characteristic of Bethlehem, the "kicked" roof was covered with tile. Archaeological excavations have also revealed that between the building's west face and the Monocacy Creek an extensive liming and beaming operation existed. Stratigraphic information shows that the area surrounding the building provided a dumping ground for the exhausted tanbark.

PRESENT APPEARANCE

When tanning operations ceased in the 1870's, the building was converted to a tenement, and later, during the 1920's, housed the Electric Laundry Company. In order to accomodate the industrial equipment of the laundry, two interior masonry walls were removed and floor levels were changed. The building was vacated in 1962 making way for archaeological and architectural study in ensuing years.

Using original vat bases which were archaeologically uncovered in 1967, the tanning vats in the southern third of the building have been reconstructed as part of the structure's permanent museum displays. Archaeological and architectural evidence allowed Historic Bethlehem Incorporated to reconstruct chimneys, the first floor fireplace, and interior masonry walls. Although no period lights remained, most of the original framing and window sills could be saved, as well as a staircase going from the third floor to the attic. The roof has once again been covered with red tiles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1761

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was a community founded in 1741 by members of the Unitas Fratrum, commonly called the Moravians. This American "Herrnhutter" colony was destined to become the seat of the Moravian Church in North America. Because of its unique religious, social, educational and industrial activities, the sect excited the curiosity and interest of contemporaries (see bibliography). Its many visitors prompted a member of the Ephrata Cloister to remark "The localities of Bethlehem and Ephrata were then and are still the subject of all strangers when they wish to explore the different characteristics of this country, because one finds everything there in a shortened form" (Chronicle of the Ephrata Brethren).

The tannery, discussed here, is located on the flood plain of the Monocacy Creek, which provided the motor power of the industries located along its banks. This Creek area will henceforth be referred to as the "Industrial Complex."

ARCHITECTURE

Prof. Garth H. Howland states in his article, "Architectural History of the Moravian Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania," found in Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society, XIV, Parts I and II (1947), pp. 50-132, that 18th century buildings of Germanic architecture featured limestone construction, a gabled roof with a "kick" at the eave line, herringbone patterned doors, brick eyebrow arches over windows and doors, tile roofs, deep windows and one or two floors under the roof. The tannery exemplifies this architectural style.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The Moravian bishop, John Cammerhof, in a 1748 letter to Church headquarters in Herrnhut, Germany, stated that the tannery "...is one of our most paying and most indispensable trades. It supplies all our shoemaking trades in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Friedrichstown, Gnadenhutzen and all our people with leather ... and then we also get the leather from there for all our places, needed for horse harnesses and other things needed in the housekeeping." (Erbe, Hellmuth. A Communistic Herrnhut Colony of the Eighteenth Century, pp. 65-66.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Pennsylvania	
COUNTY	Northampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

(Number all entries)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)

With such a large volume of business, it is not surprising that the first tannery, a log structure, was replaced in 1761 by the limestone building which still stands today.

Period documents show that the Bethlehem tannery counted among its customers such well-known Pennsylvania names as Henry Antes, William Shippen Company, and William Logan and Company.

URBAN PLANNING

The contiguous placement of the Tannery, Butchery and Stockyards allowed the freshly flayed hides to be transferred directly to the tannery, avoiding the need to salt or dry them. This, in turn, saved the leatherworkers additional labor in the early stages of processing the hides. This is only one example of the thoroughness with which the Industrial Complex was planned. In addition, the town fathers erected a mill nearby to grind the bark so vital to the tanner.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Acrelius, Israel. A History of New Sweden. William M. Reynolds, trans. Philadelphia: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1874.
 Erbe, Hellmuth. A Communistic Herrnhut Colony of the 18th Century. Elizabeth Bahnsen, trans. Stuttgart: German Foreign Institute, 1929.
 Martin, John Hill. Historical Sketch of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Printed for Orrin Rogers by John L. Pile, 1872.
 Murtagh, William J. Moravian Architecture and Town Planning. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0		"	0		"	40° 37' 11" N 75° 23' 2" W
NE	0		"			"	
SE	0		"			"	
SW	0		"			"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Not applicable

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>Not applicable</u>			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Vincent P. Foley, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Historic Bethlehem Incorporated DATE: December 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main and Church Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Bethlehem STATE: Pennsylvania 18018 CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Vincent P. Foley*
 Title: _____
 Date: 5/18/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST: _____
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ALLENTOWN EAST QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA

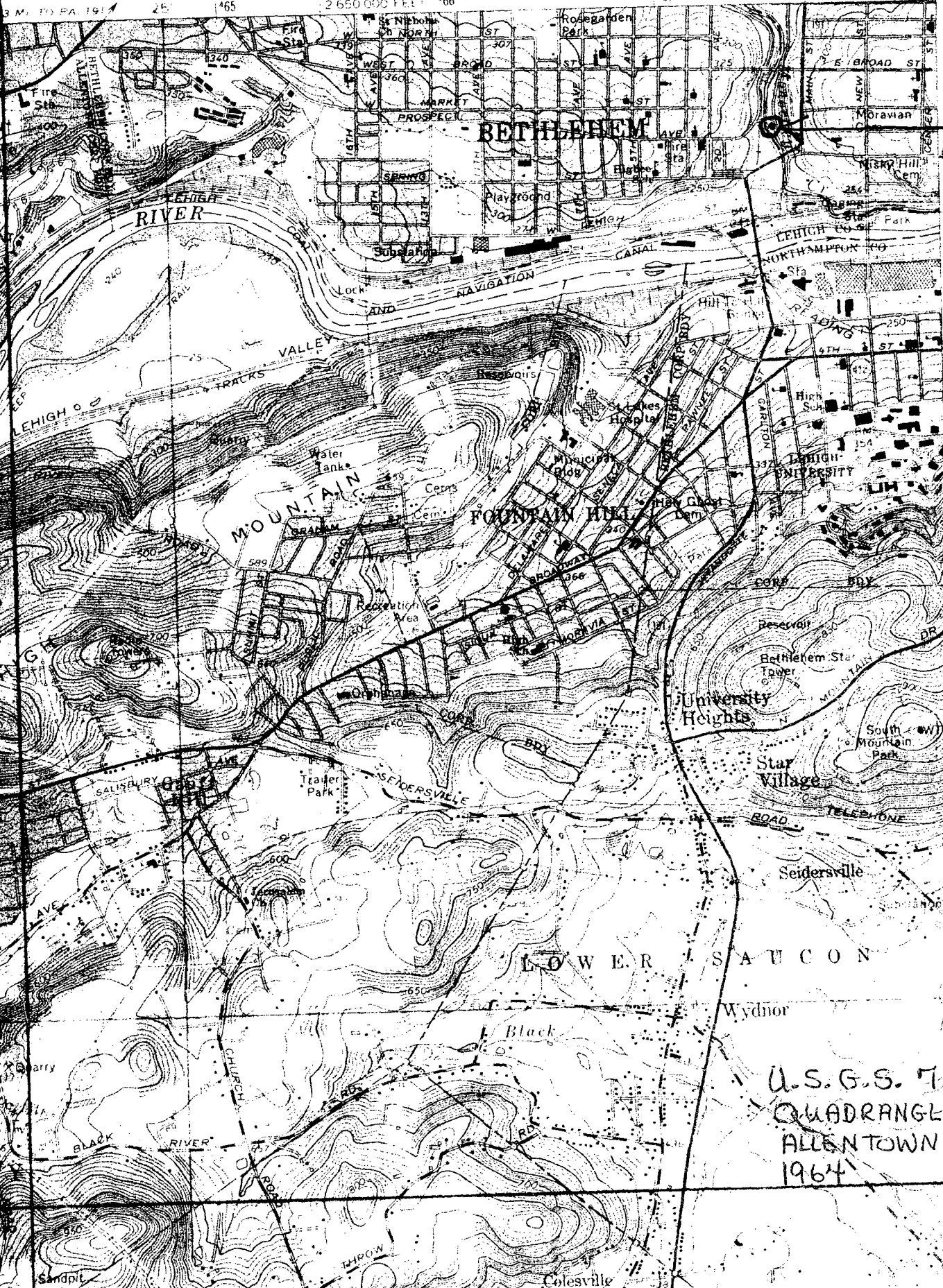
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SW/4 ALLENTOWN IS QUADRANGLE

59° 31' NE
IN NAZARETH

32

2 650 000 FEET 466 467 468 75° 22' 30" 40° 37' 30"



TANNERY

LATITUDE:

40° 37' 11" N

LONGITUDE:

75° 23' 2" W



U.S.G.S. 7-1/2'
QUADRANGLE,
ALLENTOWN EAST
1964